

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2026

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PINS PINR MILI MZ

SUBJ: PENDING DEPARTURE OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND OTHER
HIGH MOZAMBIQUE MILITARY OFFICERS

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 425 (NOTAL); PRETORIA 2293

1. DURING MY VISIT TO BEIRA JULY 7, GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA
CONFIRMED PRIVATELY HE WILL LEAVE HIS PRESENT COMMAND BY
END OF JULY OR FIRST FEW DAYS IN AUGUST. HE WILL SOON MAKE
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT. HIS SUCCESSOR RUMORED
TO BE GENERAL BASTA MACHADO WHO IS AT PRESENT, I BELIEVE,
SECOND IN COMMAND OF TOMAR DISTRICT IN PORTUGAL.

2. DE ARRIAGA'S DEPARTURE WILL SIGNAL FAIRLY THOROUGH-GOING
TURNOVER OF TOP MILITARY POSITIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE. ADMIRAL
JAIME LOPES SECOND IN COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES AND TOP COMMANDER
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OF NAVAL SERVICES IN MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE REPLACED SOON BY

ADMIRAL MOURA DA FONSECA. COLONEL COSTA CAMPOS, COMMANDER OF GE AND GEP TRAINING PROGRAM AND VETERAN OF NINE YEARS FIGHTING IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA, WILL LEAVE WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS AND IS BEING REPLACED BY LT. COLONEL PINTO RIBEIRO, FORMER COMMANDER OF BATTALION STATIONED AT FINGOE IN TETE DISTRICT. COLONEL JACINTO FRADE, MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN LOURENCO MARQUES WHO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR BRIEFING CONSULAR CORPS ON REGULAR MONTHLY BASIS WILL ALSO LEAVE SOON AFTER DE ARRIAGA'S DEPARTURE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE GENERAL DE ARRIAGA HAS NOT GIVEN ANY HINT OF PRIVATE DISSATISFACTION, IT IS BELIEVED HE IS LESS THAN PLEASED WITH CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEPARTURE. HIS WIFE, A MOST ATTRACTIVE, ENERGETIC AND INTELLIGENT LADY, WHO ACCOMPANYS HIM EVERYWHERE AND WHO ENHANCES THE EXTREMELY FAVORABLE IMAGE HE HAS AMONG HIS TROOPS, HAS LONG BEEN ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO LISBON WHERE SHE CAN ATTEND TO EDUCATION OF HER CHILDREN AND SPEND MORE TIME WITH FAMILY. DESIRE TO STAY WITH HER AND FAMILY IS KNOWN TO HAVE PLAYED LARGE PART IN GENERAL'S DECISION TO LEAVE. HOWEVER, HE REPORTEDLY HAD HOPED FOR APPOINTMENT TO HIGH POLITICAL POSITION IN LISBON WHICH THUS FAR HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING, AND HE NOW EXPECTS MERELY TO REASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP OF PORTUGUESE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. EFFECT OF HIS DEPARTURE ON MORALE OF ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN POPULACE REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT COMING AT A TIME WHEN FRELIMO IS INCREASING ACTIVITY IN TETE DISTRICT AND TRYING TO EXTEND ITS PENETRATION FARTHER SOUTH TO WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF GORONGOSA PARK AREA, PROSPECTS ARE NOT REASSURING.

4. ONE POSSIBLE RESULT MAY BE CESSATION OF MONTHLY BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR CONSULAR CORPS WHICH GENERAL AUTHORIZED ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS AGO. DEPARTURE OF COLONEL FRADE, DRAMATIC AND DYNAMIC BRIEFER WHO HAS KEPT US ENTHRALLED FOR FOUR HOURS AT A TIME DURING EACH SESSION, WILL BE SERIOUS LOSS. THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WILL SHARE HIS HISTRIONIC SKILLS, OR IN FACT WHETHER NEW COMMANDING GENERAL WILL AUTHORIZE CONTINUATION OF THE BRIEFINGS.

VAN OSS

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